SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, I am pained to see that on an important issue concerning the entire country, particularly south India, Members have given a notice. Now, the Government should come forward to issue a statement. You are depriving the Members of their right to present the facts before the House and also elicit information. I do not want to join the issue now; I only request the Chair; once the Minister makes the statement, Members who have given notice and also those who are interested should be given enough time to provide information and seek clarification. Otherwise, Sir, there would be injustice.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I fully agree that we had admitted the Calling Attention Notice on this subject but in the meantime the Government wanted to make a *suo motu* Statement. When the Statement is made then, the Calling Attention Motion becomes redundant. So, that is why we have decided that whatever time was given for Calling Attention Motion that time will be given for this.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Let there be a discussion on this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Whatever time is allotted for Calling Attention Motion will be considered for this topic.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): There must be sufficient time to articulate.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is there.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Recent Developments in Northern Sri Lanka

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to inform the House of the recent developments in Northern Sri Lanka.

Hon. Members would recall that conclusion of the military conflict in Northern Sri Lanka presented Sri Lanka with an opportunity to heal the wounds created by decades of protracted conflict, to make a new beginning and to build a better future for its people.

Government of India had emphasized to the Sri Lankan Government that the time had indeed come to focus on issues of relief, rehabilitation, resettlement and reconciliation. We had expressed our readiness to work with the Government of Sri Lanka in the rehabilitation and reconstruction process of Northern Sri Lanka and in restoring normalcy.

In the aftermath of the conflict, the presence of nearly 300,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in camps in Northern Sri Lanka posed a major challenge for the Sri Lankan Government. It was crucial that these IDPs were given immediate humanitarian attention and that urgent steps were taken to resettle them in their original places of habitation. This would, ultimately, ensure that a semblance of normalcy was restored to their lives after the traumatic experience they had undergone during the conflict. Their welfare was the first priority.

Our concern on this score was conveyed to the Sri Lankan Government. We have consistently urged the Government of Sri Lanka to quicken the pace of rehabilitation and resettlement. They had agreed that the bulk of the IDPs would be resettled within 180 days.

In October this year, a delegation of Parliamentary Members from Tamil Nadu had visited Sri Lanka to study the rehabilitation and relief work being undertaken in Northern Sri Lanka. They had visited Jaffna, the IDP camps in Vavuniya, the Up-country Plantation areas in Central Sri Lanka and met the IDPs in the camps, witnessed the distribution of the humanitarian relief items donated by India and held discussions with a cross-section of the leaders of the Sri Lankan Tamil community and the Indian Origin Tamils. They called on the President of Sri lanka H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Subsequently to their visit, more than 100,000 IDPs have been resettled. According to Sri Lankan Government sources, a total of more than 150,000 IDPs have been resettled and around 145,000 still remain in the camps. We understand more have been resettled recently. Travel restrictions in Northern Sri Lanka as well as those on the remaining have been relaxed. We have been assured that by end-January 2010, all IDPs would be resettled. We continue to work with the Sri Lankan Government to ensure the resettlement of all IDPs.

India has been actively involved in the critical task of providing humanitarian relief and assisting in the rehabilitation of the IDPs in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. Sir, 2.5 lakh family packs from Tamil Nadu, consisting of dry rations, clothing, utensils, footwear, etc., have been rushed to the IDPs since October last year. The 60-member emergency field hospital set up by India in March operated for six months till September this year and treated more than 50,000 patients, many of them serious cases requiring surgery. Two consignments of medical supplies have also been gifted.

After hon. Prime Minister's announcement in June, 2009, in the Parliament, the Government set aside an amount of Rs. 500 crores for the rehabilitation of the IDPs and for the welfare of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. We are committed to doing more. Our humanitarian effort in Sri Lanka has transitioned from a purely relief effort to a broader rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. In order to facilitate speedy resettlement of IDPs, India is extending much needed de-mining assistance. Four Indian de-mining teams are currently in Sri Lanka. After our Parliamentary delegation suggested enhancing Indian assistance in the field of de-mining, we are sending three more demining teams. To ensure that returning IDPs have a roof over their heads, India has donated 2,600 tonnes of shelter material. Additional 2,600 tonnes of shelter material is being sent. We will also supply cement to assist the returning IDPs to rebuild damaged housing. To address the vulnerable sections of the society emerging out of a military conflict, especially war widows, we are undertaking a project for their rehabilitation as well.

India has also decided to assist Sri Lanka in reviving agriculture in the North. To begin with, 20,000 agricultural starter packs have been supplied. Supply of an additional 50,000 packs is in the pipeline. A team led by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research visited Sri Lanka to work out a blueprint for our assistance to revive agriculture in Northern Sri Lanka.

Infrastructure is a priority area. The extension of assistance under Lines of Credit to take up projects in railway infrastructure reconstruction in Northern Sri Lanka and provision of rolling stock is receiving our attention, as also construction projects in the North and East of Sri Lanka to rejuvenate the cultural and social life amongst the people. At the same time, the requirements of up-country Indian Origin Tamils are also not lost sight of. Skill development and capacity building are areas of focus, as also vocational training and the provision of enhanced educational opportunities.

The Government is keen to see the revival of political process in Sri Lanka, which will meet the legitimate interests and aspiration of all communities, including the Tamils and the Muslims, within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. Revival of such a political process and an inclusive dialogue would help bring the minority communities into the political mainstream. We have continued to emphasise to the Sri Lankan Government to put forward a meaningful devolution package that would go beyond the 13th Amendment. We will remain engaged with them through this process of transition and reform.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, before I conclude, I would like to reiterate to this august House that the welfare and the safety of our fishermen in the waters between India and Sri Lanka have always received very high priority by the Government. The Government and our High Commission in Sri Lanka have always taken up matters relating to the expeditious release of the arrested Indian fishermen. Hon. Members would recall that it was with a view to address the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of this issue that the Government reached an Understanding with Sri Lankan Government in October 2008 to put in place practical arrangements to deal with *bona fide* Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line. The Understanding of October, 2008, has had a salutary effect on the situation. While in 2008, 334 boats and 1456 of our fishermen were apprehended by Sri Lankan Government; in 2009, till end of November, only 31 boats and 124 fishermen have been apprehended, witnessing a sharp decrease. We have continued to emphasize to the Sri Lankan Government the need to scrupulously adhere to the October, 2008 Understanding. However, it is important that our fishermen do not venture deep into Sri Lankan waters for their own safety and security.

The Government attaches utmost importance to the rehabilitation and the reconstruction efforts being undertaken by Sri Lanka in the North. As a close neighbour, India continues to do whatever it can to assist Sri Lanka at this crucial turning point in the country's history.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, that visit was sponsored by the Congress Party and the DMK Party.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with all the responsibility, I must say that we are thoroughly disappointed over the Government of India's response to the plight of Sri Lankan Tamils. The Statement read out by the hon. Minister is just nothing but a narrative of some incidents that have taken place in the recent past. Sir, I stand up with a heavy heart, it is very disturbing. I was telling my colleagues, since last few days, whenever we remember the issue of Sri Lankan Tamils, we are not getting proper sleep. Because, there is no forum where we can discuss this issue; there is no way by which people can get justice. India and Sri Lanka have a historical bond. We have a civilisational bondage. We have also military understanding, at times. We have been helping that country from time to time and we have the best relationship with that country. We want that relationship to continue. They are our nearest friends and we want to stand by them as and when require, in whatever matter it is concerned. We are also committed to the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of that country. We are not in favour of a separate country in Sri Lanka. Let us make it very clear. We have no sympathy for the extremist elements, even the LTTE, and the acts committed by the LTTE. Whatever little sympathy they had, after the assassination of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, even that sympathy has gone. But, simply, if somebody thinks that just because the LTTE has gone, the issue is gone; then, they are thoroughly mistaken. That seems to be the situation today.

Sir, recently, there are articles, there are also opinions expressed in international fora. Unfortunately, as far as the Indian media is concerned, except in one or two leading newspapers, National English dailies, Local Tamil dailies, not enough focus is made on this burning issue. Sir, one can win a war but may lose peace. I would request the hon. Minister and the Government of India to keep this in mind. Do not treat as if the Sri Lankan Tamil issue is over, because the LTTE has been militarily finished. Sir, the issue is very much alive. The issue may again resurface. I am saying it with all responsibility. Unless you address the core issue of resettlement and rehabilitation of these people and also adherence to the 13th Constitutional Amendment which was agreed upon between our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the then President of Sri Lanka and unless it is taken to logical conclusions, this issue will remain and it will agitate the people.

Sir, I just quote, one of the commentators wrote, 'it will be a fatal mistake to see it as a demise of the cause that gave birth to LTTE. If the Government does not act fast to resettle the war displaced persons and find a political solution to the conflict, a new challenge will emerge. Neglect on the part of the Government to ensure the preservation of dignity of the war displaced in the transitional camps delays the implementation of the resettlement plans and indifference to

forging a national consensus for a political solution to the ethnic conflict acceptable to all stakeholders will make this issue resurface again and then it will have disastrous consequences.' This is the core of my submission to the House and to this Government; but unfortunately nothing, nothing has been done so far.

Sir, even today there are reports that the conditions in the camps are horrible. Many agencies, the International Red Cross Society, even the UN Secretary-General and the other people who have got some access, have all opined and said one thing, 'the conditions in the camps are appalling, to say the least.' I do not know why the Sri Lankan Government have not allowed the international media a free access too, why they have not invited even India which is a friendly country, neighbouring country, which is ready to help, in all party MPs delegation to visit the affected areas and see for themselves and understand the gravity of the situation. We have good intentions; we do not want to fish in the troubled waters; we never did it. Sir, we have even gone out of the way earlier to send our Indian Army to see that the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka is maintained. We lost more than 1000 precious lives of our Indian soldiers for the sake of unity of our neighbouring country. That is the interest India is showing. That speaks of the sincerity of India, much against the criticism at that time; and you know it had a consequence, the unfortunate consequence. But today, unfortunately, those rulers there seem to have not understood the gravity of the feelings of the people. Sir, the people across India, particularly, in South and, more particularly, in Tamil Nadu are weeping; they are crying without sound. But you cannot expect them to keep quiet like this for ever. I don't want to politicalise the issue; I don't want to quarrel with any other party in this issue because it is not an intra-party issue; it is not a conflict between two parties in Tamil Nadu or two parties at the national level. All of us are concerned, equally concerned.

As I told you we have civilisation bonds with Sri Lanka, we also have historical bonds and from time to time — just now the hon. Minister has also read out — we have given so much assistance and we are ready to extend further assistance also in the reconstruction, in the rehabilitation and for medicines. Even the medical teams have gone and we are also ready to provide whatever help is required. Fine. But, at the same time, what are the conditions? Sir, unfortunately, in between what has happened? Sir, the Sri Lankan Government have moved to the United Nations Human Rights Council and said that they should not take up the issue of violations during the conflict. Switzerland has moved a Resolution; 18 countries have backed that Resolution; but unfortunately India did not. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, who is a partner in this Government, wrote a letter to the Government of India saying that 'though there is a question of interfering in the internal affairs of the country which would affect its sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence, Sri Lanka should be treated as a special

case. It is widely believed by millions of Tamils spread all over the world that the draft resolution now presented by the Sri Lankan Government to the United Nations Human Rights Council is largely against the interests of Sri Lankan Tamils, and, hence, I request you to kindly take appropriate action in this regard having in mind sentiments of the Sri Lankan Tamils and their future welfare.'

This is the letter written by the Chief Minister of ruling alliance. I have not seen any response whatsoever from the Government so far on this issue. I don't want to dwell at length about what the other countries are saying. Even the Foreign Secretary, so-called External Affairs Minister of Britain, he also opined that both the sides, Government as well as LTTE people, at that time were transferring their limits and civilians have become casualty in this entire conflict. He said that there is a need to have an enquiry into this. We are mum; we are keeping quiet on this issue. Why? We have problems here. I can say when there is problem in Kashmir, the information on media was allowed. International Observers were allowed freely to come and see the election process in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. We are an open society. Here, it is not the question of conflict. Conflict is over. For the time being, the military conflict is over, but not the appalling conditions, because there is no sanitation; there is no proper drinking water; no proper medicines available and there are reports in umpteen number of international agencies saying what is happening there. Mr. Gordon Weiss, UN Spokesman in Colombo said, "the way we are taking it up at this point of time is important for the future. You have to assuage the feelings of those people who are affected." Just now the hon. Minister has said that 50,000 people are treated including some of them for critical injury. That makes us to understand what is the situation? Fifty thousand people! Out of three lakh people there, fifty thousand people are treated by our Indian doctors. You can understand the situation. Just now the Minister has said that they are allowed free movement. Free movement in what sense? They were not allowed to meet their relatives; they were not allowed to go to North and see other families. Just now, they are all living in barbed fencing camps; they don't have freedom to move; they don't have any source to explain their plight to anybody and they are not allowed to meet anybody. Now, they say that they can go in convoys and come back by evening. That is the situation today. That is why people are disturbed. Sir, there are fifty thousand children in the camps, one thousand of whom are orphaned by war and four thousand maimed men and women are in the camp, as rightly said by the Minister. I don't have the exact figures. I do not want to dispute the figures also, though I have some information that majority of the people are still in the camps only. Unfortunately, Minister instead of getting assured information said 'Government sources'. There are also reports that around 10,000 tiger combatants, including about hundred jailed soldiers, are also kept in the camps. That is the

situation that speaks of the experience. Then, Sir, I just quote one statement made by recently retired Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, Sarath Nanda Silva, on the condition of camps. He said, "The conditions in the camps were qualified as appalling." These are the words used by the retired Chief Justice of Sri Lanka. The attacks on civilian population during the conflict and hardships caused to them because of military action has resulted in depression among the Tamil Diaspora across the world, not only in India.

Even people who are living outside in different parts of the world, they are all very much concerned. The military action has resulted in untold sufferings. Our high level delegation that went there was assured by the Sri Lankan Government that they would not use lethal weapons and chemical weapons against the LTTE and other people. They used it. There is a proof that they used it. Even in conflict area, civilians were also become casualty in that conflict. So, Sir, we should impress upon the Government of Sri Lanka. In NDA, during our regime, we said that we are committed for a peaceful resolution of the conflict within the framework of Sri Lanka's unity, territorial integrity and the united Sri Lanka where all communities can realise their aspirations. That is the vision of our Government. I hope the same is the vision of this Government also. But, from time to time, political solutions for this Tamil question must come within the framework that preserves Sri Lankan unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

When Sri Lankan Government sought India's assistance to protect its unity, it was extended. Now, the issue is, it is quite but natural for the people of India and the Parliament of India to be concerned about the sufferings of Sri Lankan Tamils, who are our brothers. We don't want to interfere in their internal affairs. Sir, the recently retired Army Chief gave a statement that the conditions in the camps is one of the 16 reasons that has made me to take a decision to resign from the military and enter the political field. I do not know if it is a political statement or not, but it is a fact; it is a statement. Sir, whatever be the happenings, on the occasion of the celebration of the victory and honouring war heroes on May 22nd, the President of Sri Lanka, Shri Mahinda Rajapaksa spoke of the Jathika Kodiya, meaning the national flag, Sinha Kodiya Sinhalese flag.

We are not concerned about their flag. We respect their flag. But the point is, the Sri Lankan Tamils, the minority Muslims there, must also have the feeling that they are also part and parcel of that country, that they are also equal partners in that country, that they also have a say in the Legislature and in the local bodies and they must feel that they are equal citizens. That is not happening. The Tamil generation and the Muslim generation in the North and East of the country are very much agitated. This agreement is nothing new. It was ratified by both the Parliaments of India and Sri Lanka earlier. And there was a broad agreement; of course, LTTE first agreed to that and then backed out and the consequences followed. But, at the same

time, we are not able to see an inch of development, an inch of movement with regard to fulfilment of the 13th Constitutional amendment or any action by the Sri Lankan Government in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naidu, please.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I am just concluding. I told you...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But I have also given sufficient time. I am only reminding you of the time. It is Friday today.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: My concern is that we should not be seen begging for time on this issue; I am sorry for using that word.

Sir, General Sharat Fonseka said that the travails of the wardisplaced was one of the 16 reasons that prompted him to seek voluntary retirement. This is the statement given by that important functionary who is also contesting the elections. Now, my point is, the sweet words of the President of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapakse, should be matched by substantial political reforms that institutionalise devolution and reach out to Sri Lankan Tamils' hearts and minds. This should be done at the earliest.

Sir, there is a letter, one Tamil gentleman wrote — it is there on the Internet — 'I do not know the purpose of my life. I wonder why and for what the LTTE, the military fought the battle and what the war achieved in the end. We believe the Tigers, Sri Lankan Government and Indian people with whom we share a special bond, are all responsible for our fate today.' This is the feeling of the average Tamilian in Sri Lanka. Try to understand; I would request Members from all sides of Parliament to understand the hurt feelings and sentiments of the people. This is reflected in the statement made by Mr. Aryanathan, interviewed at Manik Farm, Zone IV. The newspaper, The Hindu, published it on May, 27.

The Draft Resolution of 2000 is widely agreed upon by everybody. Today, we are in 2009; so far, not even an inch has moved in the direction of devolution, in the direction of removing the feelings of discrimination, in the direction of involvement of various sections of the Sri Lankan society in the process of administration, governance and legislature. This has not happened. Unless this is done, the issue is going to continue. That is one point.

Secondly, talking of rehabilitation, we are sending material. The hon. Minister for External Affairs is here. What prevented the Government of India; why have you not sent an all-Party MPs' delegation? You have extensively quoted the report talking about the opinion of the Members of Parliament who visited the place. They had visited on their own though the media gave it a colour as if it was a Government delegation or the Ruling Party delegation.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): It was said by the media that it was a Congress-DMK delegation.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: My question is, is it an issue of the Congress Party or the DMK Party? No. It is an issue that concerns the entire country. It is an issue that concerns all political parties. You should have taken the initiative to see that one person from every political party had gone there.

SHRI D. RAJA: That is why, he says.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: That is what I am saying. But, the hon. External Affairs Minister quoted, "MPs delegation". That is why, I am saying this. I have no objection to any party - DMK, PMK, AIADMK, or, MDMK - going over to Sri Lanka and seeing something and coming back. We have no problem. We have no quarrel with them. But, my point is that the Government of India has failed in its responsibility to take timely action of sending a delegation of the MPs to see the seriousness of the situation in the camps and give first-hand information to the Parliament.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: This delegation was sent by the party, not by the Government. It was sent by the DMK Party and the Congress Party.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Then, my point is, if it is a delegation of Parties, I do agree; they have a right. Then, why has the Minister mentioned it on his behalf?

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Because we are MPs.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Are we not MPs? Do you want to divide the people? Who has to meet the Sri Lankan President there? Is it done by the political parties or by the Government of India? Was there no intervention? My point is that don't trivialise things. Sir, the Government of India, even now, should send a delegation of Members of Parliament, cutting across party lines, to see the situation there; understand the feelings of the affected people; also have a look at rehabilitation to understand further requirement; also understand first hand information on how this rehabilitation is being organised there and how it is spent and fixed; and also understand the latest thinking in the minds of the people who are still very much there in the camps. This is equally important. Sir, we are a democratic country. World over, all the democratic countries want democracy to prevail everywhere in the world. So, that being the primary concern, we should not be carried away by partisan politics in this matter. We do not want to rub Sri Lanka on the wrong side. Let me make it very clear.

As I told you, we have no sympathy for the LTTE. We do not have any sympathy and we do not agree with the actions taken by the LTTE, using violent methods to finish their political opponents, both internally and outside, and they will ask the sympathy of the world community because of that. But, I have sympathy for Sri Lankan Tamils. My Party, and, I hope, the Indian Parliament, have enough sympathy for Sri Lankan Tamils. Sympathy should not be mere lip sympathy. Sympathy should be translated into action, and we must also move in the direction of

finding a permanent solution. Without finding a permanent solution, we just simply offer a lip sympathy by just mentioning it in the House and then making some sort of goody-goody remarks and saying that something has been done, something is being done, and something more will be done and all that. Sir, simply because Tamil Nadu people are not coming to streets, don't understand this as a weakness. There is a different political situation. That is why, nobody wants to disturb that political situation. There is a different background to this. But, don't force people to go to the level of coming to streets. Because, there is a strong feeling in each and every corner of that part of the country; all political parties are also equally concerned about this. So, I only request the Government to be proactive, to see that proper message is sent.

Two delegations have gone there. In between, Shri Pranab Mukherjee has gone to Sri Lanka. I had a chance of meeting him in the flight. I conveyed him my feelings. We are deeply hurt and disturbed also over the inaction of the Government of India. I cannot quarrel with Sri Lankan Government. Because we have a Parliament here; we have a Government here. You are accountable to us and we have every right to ask you and also to tell you and suggest you as to what to do and what not to do. That is what we are doing today. So, I hope you will understand the sentiments of the House, sentiments of the people, and also the sentiments of the displaced people across the world. Again, you understand why that support came to that organisation; because of the Diaspora around the world. They all feel that they have been discriminated, they have been displaced. You should see to it that their feelings are assuaged and timely action is taken by Sri Lankan Government, and then, people are made happy, and happily situated there.

SHRI D. RAJA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, today, I speak with great pain and great anguish. I have raised this issue on several occasions in this august House. Several Parliaments in several countries could discuss the Sri Lankan developments at length but the Indian Parliament could not find enough time to discuss the crucial situation in Sri Lanka.

I do not consider this statement as one which reflects the deep concerns of our people. I do agree with Venkaiah Naidu ***ji***. I do deplore terrorism — the terrorism by any organised group; the terrorism by the State — I do deplore terrorism in that way. I would like to deal with four major issues, namely, war and crimes; the political solution to the Sri Lankan Tamil question; the Government of India's policy; and, the question of fishermen.

Sir, what happened in Sri Lanka was nothing but a full-scale war against the national linguistic minority in Sri Lanka, that is, the Tamil community in Sri Lanka. It was a full-scale war and it was *. It is not that my party calls it *, several parties in the UPA coalition have called it *. It is the view of some partners in the UPA government that what happened in Sri Lanka was * — * against the national linguistic minority,

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*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

the Tamils. Sir, what happened at the end of the full-scale war, particularly, in the month of May, cannot be described by anyone in words. It was a tragedy.

Such disaster, such tragedy did not happen anywhere in the contemporary history. It did not happen anywhere. Thousands of people were butchered, killed; thousands of women were killed; and, children were killed. Where did it happen? I would like to put this question to the External Affairs Minister. In the contemporary history, show me the country where such a full-scale war was waged against its own citizens, its own people. It happened in Sri Lanka, Sir. It was a full-scale war and it was *, and, the Government of India assisted in that war. This is my charge against the Government. The Government of India sent two naval ships and it was acknowledged by the Sri Lankan Government. In the Parliament, they acknowledged it. Even the former Army Chief acknowledged it. The Government of India extended all out support in the action taken by the Sri Lankan Government. The war was undertaken by the Sri Lankan Government with full assistance — military assistance, financial assistance, and, all sorts of infrastructural assistance — given by the Government of India. Two naval ships were sent there. The Government of India should explain all this to the nation. What was the compulsion for the Government of India to do this? What was the obligation on the part of our Government to do this? I am not going into the past issues. I am talking about the recent, current issues. The Government of India did it. It was known to everybody. That is why I * the Government of India for having supported such a war.

On the one side, you supported the war, and, on the other side, you are now giving full support for rehabilitation. I do not question the support given for rehabilitation or resettlement. I am not questioning that. But what is the policy of the Government of India. Is it a fair and just policy towards a neighbouring country that you will give assistance to the Sate to wage war against its own citizens, and, then, you will give assistance to restart their lives? What is this policy, Sir? The country wants to know, the people want to know the policy of the UPA Government.

Having said this, Sir, on the humanitarian issue, I would say that what happened in Sri Lanka was a gross violation of human rights, gross violation of human rights. It was raised by the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Its representative Navi Pillay raised the issue and it was criticised, by whom? By our Government. What was suggested by Navi Pillay? Have an impartial inquiry into the violations of human rights; have an impartial inquiry into the war crimes. This is what was demanded. And the Government of India got up and asked, "How could you raise this issue?" That is why I am asking: What is our policy?

Sir, it is not that the Sri Lankan Government agreed because some delegation went there and talked to them. They agreed to send the people from camps, because the issue was taken up by several European countries; the European Union refused to extend financial assistance to the

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Sri Lankan Government on the question of the gross violation of human rights. And, in fact, the issue was raised in the IMF. I must say this. The IMF refused to give financial aid to Sri Lanka. IMF had to give 2.6 billion dollars to Sri Lanka. But there was an issue. Our Prime Minister promised, 'if the IMF does not give aid, India is there to assist Sri Lanka.' This was reported on 22nd October 2009, and it was acknowledged in the Sri Lankan Parliament also. That is why I am asking this. The issue was raised not just by one country. Argentina raised this issue. It is somewhere in Latin America. Germany raised this issue. It is in the Europe. Several countries voiced their concern about the human rights violations in Sri Lanka. But what about our country, Sir?

As Venkaiah Naiduji said, we have civilisational bond with Sri Lanka. We have emotional bond with Sri Lanka. We have all kinds of relations with Sri Lanka. But what was our attitude? What was the stand taken by our Government? Our Government was willing to offer any help to the Sri Lankan Government which was committing*. That is why I demanded in this House from the Government of India that it is time to recast its policy towards Sri Lanka.

Now, Sir, about camps, some rosy picture is given in the statement that the Government is sending back some internally displaced persons. Sir, the camps, I said it in this House, are nothing but 'concentration camps,' what we saw in the regime of Hitler. They are open air jails. You ask anybody. If the Sri Lankan Government denies this, let the Sri Lankan Government give access to international media. Let the Sri Lankan Government give access to any international agency. Let them go and see the situation. It is nothing but an open air jail. Even now you claim that some people are released. But they have to report back. They can go out, but they have to come back and report. That is the condition. I don't want to get into the issue of injured people. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu said it in his speech about children and women.

Now I raise one small issue, Sir. It is a very small issue but a very serious issue. The young men and women are reported 'disappeared.' Why did they disappear? How did they disappear? Let the Sri Lankan Government explain it. Our Government should ask about the so-called 'disappearance.' I read the history of Argentina where military dictatorship was ruling the country and young men and women used to be reported 'disappeared.' Actually, army took them and killed them. It happened in several other countries.

But what is happening in Sri Lanka, Sir? Where are they, Sir? Thousands of young men and women! Where are they? What sin they have committed, I would like to know. Just because they are born as Tamils! Is it the reason behind killing the young men and women like this? In the name of disappearance! What is the theory of this disappearance? Can we subscribe to such atrocious military theory? That is the character

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

of Sri Lankan Government, Sir. Our Government should try to understand the character of Sri Lankan State. We are concerned with democracy. We want our neighbouring countries to have vibrant democracies. The security of India cannot be secure if Sri Lanka is not secure or if Pakistan is not secure or if Nepal is not secure. I agree that the security of any nation lies in the security of other nation. Having said that, I am raising this question. We are having a vibrant democracy. We are proud of our democracy. It is not the same in Sri Lanka. It is not that only I am talking about it. But many other scholars also have raised this question; the character of Sri Lankan State has been changing. That is why our Government should have assessed the situation and should have recast its policy towards Sri Lanka.

Then coming to the political solution, Sir, we talk about having a political solution. But are we in a position to tell the Sri Lankan Government to really address the question of having a political solution for Sri Lankan Tamils? What do they want? Whether they are Muslims, they are also Tamils. Whether they are Tamils living in the hilly region or in the candy region or whether they are the Tamils of Indian origin or the Tamils of Jaffna, they all want a peaceful coexistence, a peaceful coexistence on the basis of equality with other nationality. That is all they want. The Sri Lankan Government
should come forward for having a reasonable political solution. But Sri Lankan Government is not speaking about the political solution. Sir Lankan Government believes in a military solution and it continues to have the same line, military solution; "We can settle everything with the might of army, with the might of gun!" Is it the solution, Sir?

As a neighbouring country, we have a moral responsibility, Sir. More than one lakh Sir Lankan Tamil refugees are living in India, Sir, in Tamil Nadu. For how many years? It is not for one month, one year. For several years they continue to live in Tamil Nadu, in India. Isn't there any responsibility on the part of Sri Lanka? Has that Government any concern for its own citizens who are living as refugees in other neighbouring, sovereign country? Has our Government raised this issue at any point of time? I am not saying we can interfere in any sovereign country just like that. But the issues do not remain as internal issues. They spill over us and we are taking the burden of Sri Lankan refugees! What do they want? What is our assessment? On this question of political solution, our Government, again I am saying, has not taken a strong position. This is what all others have said, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu has said. We can use goody, goody words, a goody, goody language. But finally, a solution should emerge. If that solution does not emerge, I am afraid, Sir, we should not underestimate the seeming silence today. This silence can prove to be more powerful in the coming days within our own country, and also in Sri Lanka.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, you have to finish now.

SHRI D. RAJA: I am finishing, Sir. That is what the Sri Lankan Government must understand. The Sri Lankan Government should come forward with a political solution to the Tamil question.

They can't delay this. The delay will again derail the Sri Lankan Government. They can go in for the elections. They can go in for the Presidential election. They can go in for the Sri Lankan Parliament election. But my question is: What will happen to the Sri Lankan Tamil? Will they have some rights to live in that island peacefully? What will India do for that? I would like to know whether India has some moral responsibility or not, whether the Indian Government has some moral responsibility or not.

Now I come to the fishermen's issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, you please conclude.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, I am coming to the last issue, the fishermen's issue. I am thankful to the hon. Minister for he wrote me a letter on 30th September, 2009 where he talks about the Agreements and I quote:

"The Government considers its maritime boundary with Sri Lanka settled under the Agreements concluded with Sri Lanka in 1974 and 1976."

Sir, I am quoting from your letter.

"Under the Agreement, the Island of Katchatheevu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line. Texts of both these Agreements were subsequently laid on the Table of the House. Under the Agreement, Indian fishermen are allowed access to Katchatheevu Island for rest, for drying nets and for the annual St. Anthony's festival. The right of access is not understood to cover fishing rights around the island to Indian fishermen."

Now, in the statement, the hon. Minister says and I quote:

"However, it is important that our fishermen do not venture deep into Sri Lankan waters for their own safety and security.

I take it — I don't want to be harsh — as a kind of insult or betrayal, as far as the Indian fishermen are concerned.

[The Vice-Chairman, (Prof. P.J. Kurien), in the chair]

Sir, now I am going to quote article 5 of the 1974 Agreement.

Article 5 says:

"Subject to the foregoing, Indian fishermen and pilgrims will enjoy access to visit Katchatheevu as hitherto and will not be required by Sri Lanka to obtain travel documents for these purposes."

Then, article 6 reads as follows:

"The vessels of India and Sri Lanka will enjoy in each other's waters such rights as they have traditionally enjoyed therein."

1.00 P.M.

This is what has been agreed in the Agreement. But how was this Agreement flouted? How was this Agreement subverted? I must quote. Sir, it is good enough that you are present. We had one Foreign Secretary. I name the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Kewal Singh. The letter of Mr. Kewal Singh, the then Foreign Secretary of India, addressed a letter, dated 23.3.1976, to Mr. W.T. Jayasinghe, the then Secretary in the Ministry of Defence and Foreign Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka, which reads as follows:

> "Fishing vessels and fishermen of India shall not engage in fishing in the historic waters, the territorial sea and exclusive economic zone of Sri Lanka, nor shall be fishing vessels and fishermen of Sri Lanka engage in fishing in the historic waters, the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone of India without the express permission of Sri Lanka or India, as the case may be."

Now, how can you, at the Foreign Secretaries level, change the understanding between the two countries? I would like to know whether the Parliament was taken into confidence, whether this country was taken into confidence and whether the people were taken into confidence.

I would like to know this from the Government. Did you consult the Parliament? Did you consult the country before allowing the Foreign Secretary to subvert the accepted agreements signed in 1974-76? That is why, I think, the time has come for the Government of India to reopen these agreements. The Government of India will have to renegotiate the Katchatheevu Agreement. The Government of India will have to restore the traditional rights of the Indian fishermen; otherwise, the Indian fishermen will always be attacked by the Sri Lankan Army. That is what is happening. Sir, I do not take these numbers. I have my own doubts about the numbers with regard to internal displaced persons, with regard to fishermen because I do not think these numbers reflect the reality. How are you going to protect the Indian fishermen?

Now you are advising the Indian fishermen not to go there. Is that the only way to protect the Indian fishermen, to provide them safety and security? But what happens to their traditional rights of fishing around Katchatheevu? What happens to their traditional rights? Are we so helpless to tell our Indian fishermen that please don't go there; we can't save you if the Sri Lankan Navy attacks you or captures you and that the Government of India cannot do anything? You are pleading helplessness in this statement by asking our fishermen not to venture. This really pains me. This question of Indian fishermen will have to be taken up with all seriousness. That is why I demand that the 1974-76 agreements should be reopened and renegotiated.

Finally, I agree that this delegation went there. I do not have any complaints. Any party can send its delegation. It is good that they went there. They tried to have some interaction with the people; they tried to have some interaction with the Government. I have no objection. But can you

take it as an official delegation? Your statement deals with the visit of the delegation substantially. Can you take it as an official delegation? Is it the way to deal with such a situation? Here I completely agree that the Government of India should have taken up the initiative to send some kind of an all-party delegation and the Government of India should have negotiated with the friendly neighbour that we would like to help you, we would like to send our delegation to have direct interaction. Did the Government of India do so? We want to know this. Otherwise, how can we address these questions? It is a serious issue. I am not politicalising this issue. It is the concern of the whole country.

Today, I am happy that the principle Opposition Party stood up and spoke on this issue. I think the whole Parliament should discuss this issue. All parties must express their views. It is not that I happen to be a Tamil and, therefore, I should speak on this issue. I speak for the people who are being butchered in any part of the world. I speak for the people of Palestine. I speak for the people of Burma. I speak for the people wherever they are being massacred, wherever they are being butchered, wherever their rights are being denied. In the same manner, I speak for Tamils. This is a serious issue. India cannot behave just like any other country. That is my point. India is its immediate neighbour. We all have friendly relations with the Sri Lankan Government. You have given Rs. 500 crores and you have offered to give more. We have no complaints. It is a very good gesture. But how does that Government react and respond to our concerns?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude.

SHRI D. RAJA: I am concluding. On the Sri Lankan Tamil issue, the Government of India must be held responsible for the developments. We cannot simply wash our hands. This hands-off policy must be given up. When you have taken the charge of the External Affairs, I would like to humbly request you that this hands-off policy towards Sri Lanka must end.

And the Government of India should play a pro-active role. The Government of India has a moral responsibility to tell the Sri Lankan Government to come forward with a political solution to the Sri Lankan Tamils. Also, the Katchatheevu Agreements need to be re-opened and re-negotiated. We do this, Sir. We have done it in case of Bhutan. We have done it in case of other neighbours. Then, why not with Sri Lanka? These are my points. This is really a very serious issue and, I am sure the whole House joins me in expressing the serious concern. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Shri Tiruchi Siva. Please be brief. It is already 1.05 p.m.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I do not want that much of time because I am standing with a heavy heart. Instead of elucidating my views in words, just by shedding a drop of tear, I would make the entire House, not just the Government but everyone here, to realise the

grief that we have. Sir, the misery and the grief, which the Sri Lankan Tamils are undergoing, is an unending process, that too, an uninterrupted one. Sir, I do want to elaborate much on it. Much has been said and a lot is known to all. I have two history books. One is 'The Rich Past of the Tamils', which says that when they went across the world, establishing the rich heritage of the Tamil race, whoever came to Tamil Nadu, were warmly welcomed, with hospitality. And, my another history book says that the same Tamil race in Sri Lanka are now standing in the wired camps with a begging bowl.

We have got an umbilical cord relationship with those people. Reports, which come to us, are paining. Our women there have no clothes to change. With just only one dress, the women are sustaining their lives. There is no water. Only contaminated water is used for drinking purposes. They are suffering from illness. I do not want to repeat all those things. I may create an emotional situation; but this may not serve the purpose. Instead of saying what has happened, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister what is to happen. Sir, I want to be brief. I want to control my emotions. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, our leader, has spent sleepless nights. He has repeatedly written letters to the Central Government. He has organised all the people of Tamil Nadu, expressed solidarity and shared their concerns with the Sri Lankan Government. Even while going to the United Nations, he has pleaded with the Government as to how human rights have been abused on the Sri Lankan soil by the Sri Lankan Government against the Tamils.

Sir, let me come to the point. The Minister's statement says, "More than 1,50,000 IDPs have been resettled, according to the Sri Lankan Government sources. One hundred and forty-five still remain in the camps." I differ with the word 'resettled'. People might have moved out of the camps. I do know whether they are resettled or not. The Sri Lankan Government, I am sure, is not interested in them. Those people were driven out of their homes. They were deprived of their jobs. Whatever occupations they were engaged in, they do not have anything now. They do not have shelter. They do not have any source of living. They might have moved out of the camps. But what is their status after having reached their places? Who is to monitor that? While there is no access to the international media, even the Sri Lankan media has no access. The U.N. Representatives, or, even the Red Cross, have no access to them. A team, comprising the DMK and Congress (I) Members, visited the camp and they interacted with the IDPs. They gave a report to the Government. I would again submit to the Government, Sir, that it is not only extending rehabilitation assistance to the Sri Lankan Government, but you have to also monitor whether it is being utilised for the welfare of the displaced Tamils.

Secondly, I would like to again submit to the hon. Minister, who is equally concerned like us, to see whether the people who are moving out of the camps are resettled; they are given adequate accommodation; they are given livelihood sources. When the Government of India thinks it is their responsibility to extend all help to the Sri Lankan Government, which is responsible for all these things, that is the problem. The Minister's Statement says that it is a very great challenge to the Sri Lankan Government. But, the sole reason of it is the Sri Lankan Government. So, again, I don't want to beat around the bush, Sir. There are only pertinent questions, which I would like to pose to the Minister. Sir, the Prime Minister had announced in Parliament in June, 2009 that the Government has set apart an amount of Rs.500 crores for their rehabilitation.

I want to know whether it has reached the people who deserved it, and for whom it has been sent and in what manner it was sent. What is the monitoring mechanism the Government of India is having to see to that that whatever assistance we are extending is reaching to them? The foremost question I would like to pose to the Minister is this. You have already sent de-mining teams as per the recommendations or the suggestions extended by the MPs Team which visited there. What is the outcome? Have the de-mining teams excavated anything? Have they found out anything? Is there any need of sending some more teams? So also the medical relief which we have sent, which is a team of 600 member emergency field hospital, it says that more than 50,000 patients have been treated; many of them are serious cases requiring surgery. Sir, this is just an instance. In what hygienic condition or the health condition the people who are in the camps are in which have led to such a situation that they are in the need of surgery even.

Sir, kindly extend some more medical help to them. When the Sri Lankan Government totally denies or declines its responsibility, after having done all these atrocities, when it has driven out the people from their own soil showing a war as a reason, it is now neglecting its duty. The Government may attempt to try to resettle the people because of the ensuing elections. That is not a concern for us. I would like again to insist upon the Minister, Sir, kindly extend some more medical relief to the people.

Sir, coming to the most important issue, when the sovereignty of the Sri Lankan Government is a concern to India, India's sovereignty is also foremost. When we have problems in the Northern and the Eastern Region, the Southern Region is also a border of India. So, the security of India must be kept in mind while we approach the issues that are happening in Sri Lanka. Not only that, Sir, the Indian fishermen, that too from Tamil Nadu, they are also Indians, are facing problems. The Indian sovereignty is to be restored or upheld, and the rights of the Indian fishermen should be restored. Sir, so far, the Minister has proudly said, I appreciate that, "While in 2008, 334 boats had been seized and 1450 fishermen apprehended, and, now, after the Agreement, it is now

31 boats and 124 fishermen apprehended." But, Sir, we should not forget that 800 fishermen have been killed so far by the Sri Lankan Navy. The Sri Lankan Navy not only apprehend our fishermen but also they damage their fishing nets, they damage their boats, they even hit them with their bayonets. They treat them very brutally.

Sir, all these things have been expressed on the floor of this House, many a time, by all the Members. We have also expressed it on the floor of this House. Sir, our Chief Minister, our leader has immediately represented to the Government and every relief has been given to the victims. But, what is the role of the Indian Government? Sir, the Kachchativu Agreement has restored with India certain rights and its fishermen, which is not being obliged by Sri Lanka. So, Sir, taking into consideration all those clauses in the Agreement, kindly restore the rights which our fishermen enjoy in the Kachchativu and they have a smooth fishing right on our seas.

Some times, they may cross over; because it is very hard to find the borderline on a sea. But, that is not happening always. Whenever the Indian fishermen are seen by the Sri Lankan Navy, immediately they are apprehended and they are tortured. So, kindly take this into consideration.

Sir, now to sum it up, I have nothing more to say. I would like to ask the Minister: What are the steps the Government of India proposes to take to meet the legitimate rights and aspirations of Tamils and Muslims in leading a peaceful life in that soil?

Sir, the pages of past history of Sri Lanka are full of blood stains. They will tell us of the reason that led to all the unwanted happenings. Sir, the civil war may have been over; but the reason still remains to be addressed. The Government of India should see to it that the Tamils in the island, after the 'resettlement'; I mean the word resettlement, the Minister is also concerned about the word, he knows the meaning better than me or anybody else. After the resettlement, it must see to it that the people are ensured of equal citizenship status and all constitutional rights.

This is the submission with a heavy heart, controlling our emotions; our eyes are drained, Sir; no more tears should be shed by the Tamils here, and the Tamils there in Sri Lanka should not undergo any more arduous days. Thank you.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am very much pained with agony and anguish particularly as a person hailing from the area of Ramanathapuram or Rameswaram, from which most of the Sri Lankan Tamils have gone there. After listening to the sentiments of Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, Mr. Raja and Mr. Siva, my job is pretty easier in the sense that they have dealt with all aspects. As such, I will try to confine as quickly as possible so that time can be saved and the Chair has a sigh of relief.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to make an observation for which our hon. Minister, a well-meaning Minister, may not mistake me. The way it was handled from the beginning till now, the Government of India is very slow, slack and some times indifferent on issues like this on the

ground terming them basically as an internal matters. Sir, I shall illustrate one or two points to justify my observation.

Sir, as far as the civil war is concerned, when it was at its peak between Sri Lankan Tamils and the Sri Lankan Government, there was a secret training for 100 Sri Lankan military personnel by our Indian Army with the full knowledge and approval of Government of India. Not only that, they have also supplied arms and radar systems to the Sri Lankan Army. What for these things are given? Have these facilities and the training given been targeted against the Sri Lankan Tamils? This is the matter of fact and this is my first point which I request the Minister to clarify.

I now come to my second point. As far as the east Sri Lanka is concerned, namely, in and around Trikonamalai, it has now been considered as a high secret zone by the Sri Lankan military. In such a situation, how the Indian Tamils or Sri Lankan Tamils can afford to live freely? They want to see to it that the Sri Lankan Tamils are always under the control of the military. This is how the east Sri Lanka has been made as a high security zone.

Sir, coming to the very important point, which Mr. Raja also referred, relating to the fishermen who are going from Rameshwaram and Ramnad. Every day, it is a problem for them. Sri Lankan Navy is committing all kinds of atrocities against them. The hon. Minister may say that the seizure of boats and the number of people have reduced but the problem continues and the people are finding no chance to eke out a livelihood. What I am trying to say is, the 1974 Agreement — about which Mr. Siva and Mr. Raja also spoke — can be nullified in the sense that there was a precedent that in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka at the instance of Sri Lankan Government, the 1987 agreement between India and Sri Lanka, was nullified. The same analogy can be applied and the agreement of 1974 can be done away with. As a result, Katchatheevu can be restored. Unless these things are done, the fishermen problem will never end at all.

Sir, coming to the most important point — Mr. Siva will contain and bear with me — the CM of Tamil Nadu has made an observation that refugees in Tamil Nadu and in India can be given rehabilitation and permanent residentship in India. In this connection, I want to submit that the hidden agenda of Mahinda Rajapakse, the President of Sri Lanka is to see that the Sri Lankan Tamils are driven away or they are liquidated or sent away. The Sri Lankan Government and their administration want to see that the Sri Lankan Tamils are driven away once and for all. In such a situation, if the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu says that they can be rehabilitated and they can be given permanent...

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): The hon. Minister is wrong. Excuse me, Sir, no...He was not asked. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please, please...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: You wait and listen to what I am going to say.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Those who have come back to Tamil Nadu, have come back long ago. He is misleading. *(Interruptions)*

DR. K. MALAISAMY: You wait and see what I am going to say. What I am trying to say is...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Dr. Malaisamy, don't bring in controversies.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Okay, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Listen. Just one second. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, let him not...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please sit down. He is not yielding. Dr. Malaisamy, please listen to me. You please listen to me. This is an issue on which all Members, this side or that side, are equally concerned. This is not a Tamil issue. This is an issue of the nation. Everybody is concerned. So, don't bring in controversial issues. What you want is result, not controversy. This is what I want to say.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: If they listen to me for a minute.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I want to...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no, sit down. You sit down. There is no time. You sit down. I will take care. You need not. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I am not disputing. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no, I will take care. You need not. No, no, that will not go on record.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: I am not questioning the print media...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no, you give your suggestions. You say what the Government should do. You give your suggestions.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: The point that I want to make out is, the rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamils in India or in Tamil Nadu will help the idea of Rajapakse because he wants to liquidate. He wants to avoid them. So, without knowing what his intention would be on the other hand, this kind of approach on the part of Tamil Nadu Government may help only Rajapaksa, not Sri Lankan Tamils. That is what I want to say. Sir, my next point is nearly about one lakh Sri Lankan Tamils are within the barbed fence in the campus and I don't want to explain further the pathetic condition in which they are living.

What are all the atrocities committed earlier on Tamils will continue. They are sent out to live in their own houses. But they could not go to their houses since they are all destroyed or damaged or in a dilapidated condition. The houses are not at all in a liveable condition. They say — as has been said here — that so many people have gone to their homes from camps. But, in reality, they have not gone to their homes at all as they are not in a liveable condition. On the other hand, they are wandering here and there.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Now, I come to the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka about which the hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement. Sir, as per our information, our Indian High Commission is not at all giving the correct information to the Government of India. The ground realities have not at all been reported correctly. I just cite a small illustration. They have started computer school, Information Centre, etc., on behalf of the Indian High Commission. You know where they have started. They have started these only in Sinhalese area, not in Tamil area. I don't know the reason why the Indian High Commission has gone to the extent of setting up all these institutions in Sinhalese area.

Sir, my last point is, as per the information I could gather informally from persons living in Sri Lanka and Tamils is that the President of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapaksa — I am not personally against him — is not at all sincere and serious for resettlement of Tamils there. They wanted to annihilate Tamils once and for all. I will give you a simple example. Earlier, where 3/4th of the Tamil population living in a particular area has now been reduced to 1/4th. So, ultimately the whole area has been captured by the Government and people of Sri Lanka. They want that Tamils be driven out of the country. So, the secret agenda of Mr. Rajapaksa must be understood.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude, Dr. Malaisamy. Shri Rangarajan.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Lastly, Sir,...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, certainly, this is my last point.

As far as the Parliamentary Committee is concerned, as Shri Naidu, Shri Raja and others have said, I would say, if it is an official Parliamentary delegation, it would be nice.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Everybody has mentioned about it. Okay. I called Mr. Rangarajan...*(Interruptions)*...Okay, I called Mr. Rangarajan.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister in one word, in one minute. I am a person hailing from Rameswaram and Ramanathapuram. Should you not be considerate for a minute, at least? You have been so kind to me all along.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No, no. There is time constraint. Please conclude...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the hon. Minister think that he made a statement and feels that everything is all right. It is not like that. What I am trying to say is to find out the root cause of the issue. They are more concerned about self-determination, etc. The first point is, the aspirations of Sri Lankan Tamils should be fulfilled. My second point is...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You have said that it is your last point and again you have come to your first point!

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I will make three points in one minute.

My second point is, the Government of India should take more interest, put extra effort and take concrete steps to solve the problems of Tamils, as has been rightly stated by my colleagues here, have not yet ended. The work has only half done. Yet, a lot more to be done for which the hon. Minister has to take special interest.

Lastly, India is such a huge country and is it so difficult for it to handle a small country like Sri Lanka. I am not undermining it. If necessary, you can armtwist it even by showing your...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No, no...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: No, no...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: I am not suggesting it. I leave it to you. But, the point is, get the things done, the aspiration of the Tamils are fulfilled and their lives are safeguarded. Thank you.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I think, it is not a proper word to use... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Mr. Malaisamy is arm-twisting me ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to submit that the statement made by the hon. Minister is in no way convincing us. I request the hon. Foreign Minister and the Government of India to take up this as an Indian problem. Do not take this as Tamil problem or the problem belonging to some Tamil political parties. What happened in Sri Lanka in the beginning of the 21st Century is a tragedy. The tragedy had happened before our eyes.

If the Government of India had intervened at a proper time, this issue could have been settled and so much of bloodshed could have been avoided. The Statement of the Minister of External Affairs says, ".. more than 1,00,000 IDPs have been resettled. According to Sri Lankan Government sources, a total of more than 1,50,000 IDPs have been resettled and around

1,45,000 still remain in the camps." I would like to ask the Foreign Minister, if they have been resettled, where have they been resettled? In their villages, there is no house. If there is a house, there is no roof. So, I am told by some people who are working there in some voluntary organisation that the people have been taken from this camp to another camp. Is that what you call the resettlement? Resettlement means that they should go to their own villages. They must have their own property. I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that the voluntary organisations working there told me that in the camp Ph.D doctors are there, medical doctors are there, teachers are there, lawyers are there and intellectuals are also there. They are suffering so much. The voluntary organisation was informed by the Sri Lankan Army that they are not going to release the youngsters who are there, because the blood is the LTTE blood. That is the approach of the Sri Lankan Government. They treat their own citizens more than a criminal.

So, the Government of India should take note of it. Please believe us. We are also discussing with so many people. Sir, the voluntary organisation people are prepared to take the orphan children who are there, but the Sri Lankan Government has refused to give them. So, this tragedy has to be properly understood by the Government of India. So, my point is that the Government must answer this House, and to this country. The Foreign Secretary and the National Security Adviser of Sri Lanka had said that displaced people would be returned to their homes in 180 days. Now those 180 days are going to finish. ..*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please put your question.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: You have to answer us; you have to answer this country. Why are you not able to return them to their homes? You have to answer us. *(Time-bell rings)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please put your question.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: My second point is this. I join with Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and Shri D.Raja that you send a delgation on behalf of this Parliament. This Parliament should send a delegation to Sri Lanka. I do not want to join with their politics, but a delegation should be sent from here. I agree with Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.

Now I come to the fishermen. As far as their problems are concerned, Shri D. Raja correctly said that if we can reopen the Katchatheevu Agreement, you must reopen and renegotiate that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: There is nothing wrong. My point is, getting Katchatheevu alone will not solve the problem. Before 1983, they were venturing the other side also because fish is there. You have to go not only around Katchatheevu but also beyond Katchatheevu.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You have taken six minutes.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Now, Sri Lanka is a very friendly country. Our coast guards are very friendly with their coast guards. My suggestion is, the Government should see that the coast guards of the two countries, the fishermen, should be there to monitor and help; they should not chase. The coast guard should help our fishermen. It is their livelihood. The rights which they were enjoying before 1983, those rights should be there. We are sending our entrepreneurs there. We have already opened 250 petrol bunks. We are starting schools there. We are rehabilitating their cement factories and other factories. I know, the Government of India is doing so many things in that country, but please help these Tamils so that they could live a normal life there. *(Time-bell rings)*

Finally, more importantly, the Sri Lankan Government has to take concrete step to ...*(Interruptions)*... ...*(Time-bell rings)*... Now, there is election there. In the elections, so many problems will come and the Sri Lankan settlement problem, the political settlement problem will go back. Please see that this Government negotiates with the Sri Lankan Government. Give them political package immediately before elections. ...*(Time-bell rings)*... Finally, ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No; no. ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Only one minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): It is already 1.30 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*... You don't know. There are other speakers also. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no; you can't do like that.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: So, there should not be any delay in the political settlement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Look at the watch. It is 1.35 p.m.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Sir, I am finishing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please, there are other speakers. Please.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: So, the Government of India should, in a time-frame, see that the Sri Lankan Tamils are settled properly and the people who are living in Tamil Nadu should be given proper protection. ...*(Interruptions)*... ...*(Time-bell rings)*... Thank you.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो पी.जे. कुरियन): श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी.... आप तीन मिनट लीजिए। अभी 1 बजकर 35 मिनट हो गए हैं और ढाई बजे प्राइवेट मैम्बर्स बिजनेस भी लेना है...**(व्यवधान)**... लंच ब्रेक भी होना है, इसलिए तीन मिनट में बोलिए।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी का जो बयान है, वह बहुत ही निराशाजनक है। यह सही है कि उन्होंने मानवता के आधार पर जो सहायता वहां दी, वह ठीक ही दी, क्योंकि जैसा कि माननीय सदस्यों ने शंका व्यक्त की कि आखिर जो सहायता दी जा रही है, इसकी क्या गारंटी है कि जो पीड़ित लोग हैं, उन तक सहायता ठीक ढंग से पहुंच रही है या नहीं पहुंच रही है? श्रीलंका में जिस प्रकार की कार्यवाही वहां की सरकार और वहां की सेना ने की है, वह बहुत ही शत्रुतापूर्ण और भेदभावपूर्ण रही है। हम श्रीलंका की सम्प्रभुता की इज्ज़त करते हैं। हम लिट्टे जैसे आतंकवादी संगठन के क्रियाकलापों की निंदा करते हैं, परंतु उसी के साथ-साथ हम श्रीलंका की सरकार और उसकी सेना द्वारा जिस प्रकार से तमिलों के ऊपर, जो तमिल युद्धरत नहीं थे - बच्चे थे, महिलाएं थीं, उनके मोहल्लों में, अस्पतालों में, शिक्षण संस्थाओं पर जिस तरीके से आक्रमण हुए और जिस तरीके से उनको मारा गया, जैसा कि श्री डी. राजा ने कहा और उन्होंने ही नहीं कहा, दुनिया की प्रेस ने इसको नरसंहार की संज्ञा दी, तो हम उस नाते भी श्रीलंका सरकार की इस कार्यवाही की निंदा करते हैं। हमें श्रीलंका की स्थिति के बारे में अवगत हो जाना चाहिए। आज आप जानते हैं कि पाकिस्तान और चीन जिस तरीके से श्रीलंका के मामले में दख़ल दे रहा है, उसने हथियार दिए, उसने हर प्रकार की सहायता प्रदान की, क्योंकि जो चीन है, चीन का कोई at stake नहीं है। चीन व्यावहारिकता के आधार पर अपनी विदेश नीति, अपने रिश्ते तय करता है। उसके सामने कोई ideology नहीं है ..**(समय की घंटी)**.. परंतु हमारी सरकार है, अब आप तो मुझे पूरी बात कहने भी ....**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): तिवारी जी, conclude कीजिए।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : जो हमारी सरकार है, वह न तो व्यावहारिकता ही ठीक कर पा रही है और न अपने उसूलों पर ही टिक पा रही है, क्योंकि आप जानते हैं कि अगर तमिलों की समस्या है, तो भारत सरकार को, जो उसका राजनैतिक हल है, उस राजनैतिक हल के लिए दबाव डालना चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): तिवारी जी, क्लैरिफिकेशन्स पूछिए। टाइम नहीं है ।...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं क्या करूं? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : आपने दूसरे लोगों को इतना मौका दिया और मैं कोई irrelevant बात नहीं कह रहा हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): आप क्लैरिफिकेशन्स पूछिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : मैं शॉर्ट में ही अपनी बात कह रहा हूं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): There is no time.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : अगर आप मुझे पूरी बात ही नहीं कहने देंगे, तो मैं कैसे ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No; you put your questions and stop.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : मेरा क्वेश्चन जो है... क्वेश्चन किए बिना मैं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): There is no time. We have to finish.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : अब आप मेरा इतना समय मत लीजिए। मुझे अपनी बात कह लेने दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The Minister has to go to the Lok Sabha.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि आखिर भारत सरकार की कौन सी मजबूरी थी कि श्रीलंका सरकार के द्वारा तमिलों के ऊपर इस प्रकार की कार्यवाही की गई? हम कम से कम उन्हें सलाह तो दे सकते थे, human rights के violation के बारे में अपनी बात तो कह सकते थे। दूसरी बात मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि जो राजनैतिक सुझाव था, राजनैतिक हल था, उस राजनैतिक हल के लिए आपने क्या दबाव डाला? अगर तमिल और सिंहल के बीच में इस प्रकार का भेदभाव होगा तो आप जानते हैं कि पाकिस्तान में क्या हुआ। हम चाहे कुछ न करें, परन्तु श्रीलंका की सरकार हमेशा हमें शंका की नज़र से देखेगी। इसलिए अपनी संप्रभुता की रक्षा के लिए, अपनी राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को दृष्टि में रखते हुए हमें श्रीलंका के बारे में अपनी नीति स्पष्ट करनी पड़ेगी क्योंकि अगर तमिल वहां सताए जाएंगे, वहां मारे जाएंगे, उनके सेटलमेंट का कोई इंतजाम नहीं होगा तो उसका असर हमारे ऊपर भी पड़ेगा। यही स्थिति हमारी चारों तरफ है - यही स्थिति बर्मा में है, यही स्थिति पाकिस्तान में है। आप जानते हैं कि जिस तरीके से श्रीलंका की सरकार अपने बंदरगाहों का इस्तेमाल खुले आम चीन और पाकिस्तान को दे रही है तो आखिर उसकी स्थिति क्या है? इसमें हमारी सुरक्षा का मामला आता है या नहीं आता है? क्या हम श्रीलंका के प्रश्न को इन सारी पृष्ठभूमियों में देखकर कोई नीति तय करेंगे या नहीं तय करेंगे, यह मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं। धन्यवाद।

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN Sir, this is a very emotional and sensitive issue. I have to appreciate the UPA Government for taking on all the international pressure and domestic pressure and properly handling the issues concerning China and Pakistan. Originally, Sri Lanka was more or less a part of India because the Sinhalese had migrated from India. Similarly, the about 15 lakh people of Indian origin who are living there are originally from the districts of Pudukottai, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli of Tamil Nadu. Similarly, the eastern part of Sri Lanka is occupied by Muslims who came from the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. Therefore, more or less, 15 lakh people of Indian origin are residing in the central and eastern parts of Sri Lanka. If you add up people living in all those parts together, that comes to about 22 lakh people who are living there. But the Jaffna region, which forms the Northern part of Sri Lanka, has people who were originally very ancient Tamil people who had migrated from Tirunelveli district. They were *Shaivaites*, they were intelligent and looked after the management of affairs of entire Sri Lanka before the Independence Movement and subsequent to the Independence Movement. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had gone to Sri Lanka...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, please put your question. You need to put your point of clarification.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I wish to make a clear picture about Sri Lanka.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I appreciate that. But we are short of time.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, we need to first appreciate the issues; it is not...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The hon. Minister has to be in the Lok Sabha at 2 p.m. So, we need to give him sufficient time to answer.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, the usual time you permit is five minutes; I shall conclude within that time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, two minutes more.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, there should be some equality; when only one person from the Treasury Bench has...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Siva has already put forth his views.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Don't repeat what has already been said. Just put your question.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, we need to put forth our ideas clearly.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had gone there in 1938 and started the Ceylon Workers Congress to protect the interests of the people of Indian origin. At that time and subsequent to the Independence of Sri Lanka, our people were not given citizenship. Therefore, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru initiated the citizenship issue and there was an end to the Shastry-Bhandaranaike Agreement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please, seek your clarification.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Five lakh people were given citizenship and now their number has gone up to 15 lakh. At that time, Jaffna...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please, seek your clarification.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, you have given me time. Please let me put forth my ideas. I shall conclude within the time you have permitted me.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, there is a Calling Attention Motion which is listed for discussion in the other House. We just have 15 more minutes here. So, I don't think that I would have enough time to answer the various points which have been raised by the hon. Members. So, I could go to the other House, finish the Calling Attention Motion and come back here, or, the House will have to be satisfied with a reply that will last for ten minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Don't make it like that. It should not be a short reply. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Let it be on Monday. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Let it be a clear reply.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): It is okay. Put your question.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Let it be a clear reply. ..*(Interruptions)*.. I have got two or three points which I want to put forward. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, we want immediately the resettlement of three lakh Sri Lankan internally displaced Tamils. There are already three categories of people. One is people who have got their own house and land. They are already migrated and they are around one lakh. The other type of one lakh people are those who got no

house but they have got some hosts to protect them, but, at the same time, they do not have money for their protection. ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, this is very sensitive ..*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Siva, please. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Everybody wants to speak as much as one can. ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: We have given the notice. ..*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please take your seat. ..*(Interruptions)*.. You want to speak and there are one or two other Members who also want to speak. After that, the reply can be postponed to the next working day. That is one suggestion if the House agrees.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I agree with the peculiar situation that has arisen. The other House is also equally important. We cannot deny that. But, at the same time, a reply of five or ten minutes will not suffice the seriousness of the subject. So, I request that it can be taken up on Monday afternoon after lunch and then we can have an elaborate detailed response from the Minister. Now, Sudarsana*ji* can complete it and the Minister can reply on Monday.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): If hon. Members want to postpone if for Monday, it is okay.

SHRI D. RAJA: In fact, we want a structured discussion on this. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Minister can reply on Monday, we have no problem.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The Minister will meet every point raised by hon. Members. Mr. Natchiappan, be brief.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: The third type of people are those who are orphans; they have got nobody to look after. More than 20,000 widows are there. Handicap people are there; blind people are there; mentally retarded people are there and children are there. These types of people are living there in camps. We have seen them there and that is why I am giving the firsthand information. We discussed this with the top-level officers, even to the President of Sri Lanka, we came to know that Jaffna Tamils who have migrated from Jaffna and settled in Canada — more than two lakh people settled in Canada, 1.5 lakh people settled in the UK and European Union and more than one lakh people settled in the United States of America —

are all very well-settled people and highly placed people ..*(Interruptions)*.. They are very intelligent people. They are living out of Jaffna. Jaffna people told us that they are not worried about them and they are creating problems for them sitting in well-placed positions in Canada, Europe and the USA. Their money is pressurising all the NGOs, the Governments of Europe and the USA not to help the displaced persons in Sri Lanka.

These three lakh people want to treat this issue just like any other issue. So, the affected people do not have any proper habitation, proper skill-development and other things. Therefore, none of the NGOs from Europe and USA is coming forward to help the Tamil people. The only country, which is now helping them, is India. India has to help; India has to see that, at least, one lakh houses are built for these people. Pre-fabricated houses can be constructed within thirty days. They have to be rehabilitated there and there should hospital positioned for them, there should be schools for their children. About 20,000 teachers are there in the camps. They are given a salary and they are teaching the children there. But, these people are to be shifted to their own places Vayuniya, Mulai Theevu, Jaffna area and the Mannar area, they have to be shifted. And, they should be given all the facilities. In the same way, they were having the agricultural land. That land should be again given back to the same Tamils who had vacated those places. These are the things which are to be looked after by the Government immediately.

Regarding fishermen issue, I want to submit that fishermen problem is continuously happening. To solve this problem, Indian Fishermen Federation and the Sri Lankan Fishermen Federation should have a joint committee. We put up the same proposal before the Sri Lankan President, who also accepted it. They are considering it. The Government of India should also quickly come out with a joint committee by which they can decide that today we will have the fishing; tomorrow, they can have the fishing. *(Time-bell rings)* In that way, the problem can be solved. I want to explain it. We are having a certain type of fishing in Kachchatheevu area. But, they are not in favour of that. At the same time, they are doing fishing in our area which is not for us. Therefore, they can very easily settle this problem if we have a joint committee for them.

Regarding the Kachchatheevu matter, it is a 25-acre island. That island can be made as a permanent centre of trade for India and Sri Lanka. It can be notified as a Special Economic Zone. It can be treated as a tourist spot so that both the countries can help in that matter.

Then, Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Minister has made a very good statement about the 13th Amendment of the Sri Lankan Constitution. We want to have the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayawardene Accord to be implemented and more so, we want to see a Government there, the State Governments, which should have powers just like our own State Governments in India. They have

to follow their Constitution. They take part now in the election, and also in the President's Election, the same process is going on. Therefore, India should facilitate and see that these people are settled properly. *(Time-bell rings)*

Sir, finally, I would like to submit that it is not the way to act on issues which are cropping up with Sri Lanka. We have to take immediate steps. There should be a committee which should immediately look into the matter and solve the problems whenever a fishermen problem is reported. We are taking our own time for solving the problem. *(Time-bell rings)* But, Tamil Nadu State and other States are having disturbance due to this issue.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार): सर, जिन लोगों ने श्री लंका के तमिलों की समस्याओं के बारे में बताया है, मैं उनको धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं, खासकर राजा जी और श्री वेंकैया नायडु जी को, क्योंकि वे सेंटिमेंटल थे। मैं यह भी दरख्वास्त करूंगा कि इनकी समस्याओं को जल्दी सुलझाने का काम करें, क्योंकि वे निहत्थे लोग हैं, इसलिए उन लोगों की समस्याओं का समाधान होना चाहिए।

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Thank you, Sir, I would limit myself to only one question. As my dear brother from my Party, Shri Tiruchi Siva, said, I stand here with all tears. But, so far, there was cold war going within Sri Lanka, but our people, Tamils, are left with nothing. They are living like dead grass, worms, sands and trees. They are still there like worms. They are left out only with their lives; no dreams of Tamil Elam, nobody to relieve them or anything. Now, they are having only their lives. They are put up within the barbed wire fence. Now, all that they need is rehabilitation. For this, Tamil Nadu Government has been very meticulously doing their own...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Don't say all this. If you have any question, just ask the question.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Rs.500 crores have been allotted. I would like to know in what way it has been sent. Rs.52 crores have been collected as donation for Sri Lankan people and already, we have spent Rs.40 crores by sending four shipments in that. I want the Minister to tell us in what ways this Rs.500 crores has been spent or is proposed to be spent.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Then, I would like to appreciate our opposition leader, Shri Venkaiah Naidu. *(Interruptions)* What are the steps that the Government has taken to ensure as to what the Sri Lankan Government will be doing for us?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I am being considerate. Please don't exploit that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Please, Sir. *(Interruptions)* Sir, I would also request the Central Government to extend the citizenship to the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees as requested by our Chief Minister. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please don't exploit my consideration. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Anbalagan, please take only one minute.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, what I want to say is that the Government of Tamil Nadu sent a delegation, which is not a real delegation. I request that a parliamentary delegation comprising of Members of Parliament of all parties and the party leaders should go from the Centre to know the real situation. *(Interruptions)* Sir, they are receiving gifts from the side of President Rajapakse ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, one of the Members, Shri Natchiappan, is not able to express his ideas because his hands are tightened. So, I want only real parliamentary delegation to visit that place. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I thank all the members for participating in this good discussion. Clarifications on the statement made by the External Affairs Minister are over. The Minister of External Affairs will reply to the discussion on Monday, the 7th December, 2009. Now, the House is adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m.

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The House then adjourned at fifty-seven minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty-four minutes past two of the clock,
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now we shall take up Private Member's Legislative Business.

BILLS INTRODUCED

The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2009

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA (Sikkim): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (to amend article 51-A) by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy; not present.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (to amend articles 124 and 217) by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy; not present. Shri Kumar Deepak Das. He is not here.